

GEORGE MINETREE DIES IN HOSPITAL

Widely Known Petersburg Citizen Succumbs After Long Illness.

AN UGLY CUTTING AFFAIR
Further Arrangements Made for the Reception of President Taft.

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., May 12.—George Alexander Minetree, one of our best known and most highly esteemed citizens, and for years past the assistant postmaster in this city, died this morning at 8 o'clock in the Petersburg Hospital, where he had been under treatment as a patient. Mr. Minetree had been in ill health and a sufferer for many months, and recently underwent a delicate operation at the hospital, performed with the hope of benefiting his condition. Mr. Minetree was born in Petersburg, September, 1843, and was consequently in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He was for many years a prominent druggist in this city. He was a brother of the late Colonel Joseph P. Minetree, and is survived by three sisters—Mrs. M. W. Payne, of Petersburg; Mrs. Arthur Gray and Mrs. W. T. Payne, of Norfolk. Also by one brother, T. J. Minetree, of this city. Mr. Minetree was a man of highly attractive personality, and a true type of the Virginia gentleman.

Mr. Minetree was a Confederate veteran, and surrendered at Appomattox. He was a member of A. P. Hill Camp, of Blandford Lodge of Masons, and of the Order of Royal Veterans.

Ugly Cutting Affair.
William Johnson, colored, was stabbed and so seriously injured last night on Low Street by a negro named Daisy Alexander, that he had to be hurried to the hospital to be placed under treatment. The two parties got into a quarrel brought on by the jealousy of the woman, when she drew a knife and made a vicious thrust at the man. The sharp blade cut through one of the ribs at the breastbone, and nearly penetrated the cavity, and for some time Johnson's condition was critical. The woman is in jail to answer the charge of felony.

Personal Escort for the President.
At a meeting last night of the mounted escort committee, of which W. Gordon McCabe, Jr., is the chairman, a letter was drafted to be sent to many prominent men in the city inviting them to meet at the Petersburg Club to-morrow night to organize a citizens' mounted escort for President Taft on his visit to Petersburg May 19. The escort, which will be a personal one, will be assigned an important duty in the festivities. Prince George's County has organized a personal escort for the President in that county, composed of 125 of its handsomest men.

The post-office was fairly flooded to-day with Anti-Saloon League literature, furnished from headquarters in Richmond and sent out through the mails here with strict impartiality to all voters.

Judge Robinson, of Goldsboro, N. C., and R. H. Mann, Commonwealth's attorney of this city, addressed an anti-saloon meeting of men and women last night in the Farmers' Warehouse. The Business Men's Association, which is fighting prohibition on business principles, in the interest of the prosperity and welfare of Petersburg, and on the ground of equal and exact justice to all men, is arranging for another big rally in the Academy of Music Friday night. The speakers will be local men of prominence, who have large interest in the city.

Little Miss Watts, the thirteen-year-old girl, on whom an unknown man attempted an assault in Chesterfield county, fortunately escaped injury, the need having been frightened away.

Matrimonial.
Miss J. Belle Webb, an attractive young lady of this city, and Samuel M. Doble, of Richmond, left this morning for Washington, where they were married this afternoon. Their trip to Washington was not in the way of an elopement, but a matter of choice.

State Manager S. B. Latham, of Norfolk, visited Hollywood Camp, Wood-

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OFFICERS HEAR OF REWARD TOO LATE

"Red Ryan" and "Crooked Bill"
Are Released From Suffolk Jail

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
SUFFOLK, VA., May 12.—The Suffolk police to-day, when it was too late, learned to their chagrin that there is a reward of \$750 for two men who were released recently from Nahamond county jail. When arrested here on suspicion of the murder of John Collins, alias "Crooked Bill," of Philadelphia, and Jack Leroy, alias "Red Ryan," of Baltimore. They carried guns and burglars' tools and had flash lights in their possession. When the time for which they were imprisoned had expired Police Chief Brinkley asked for their release. The men, however, had been freed. To-day a detective on the alleged breakers' trail, arrived in Suffolk and said there was \$500 reward for "Red Ryan" and \$250 for "Crooked Bill," both of whom were in jail at the time. It is believed they were members of the gang which tunneled under four buildings and robbed the Bank of Suffolk.

TO GUARD NATIONAL CAPITAL

To Show Congress Need of Proposed Fort at Cape Henry.

NORFOLK, VA., May 12.—Congressman Harry L. Maynard, of the Second Virginia District, is endeavoring to have the Virginia Congress in regard to the proposed fort at Cape Henry, to command the entrance to the Virginia capes, and will shortly ask that the matter be taken up. A bill is pending providing for the purchase and construction of a sufficient amount of territory for the fortifications.

It was demonstrated at the navy manoeuvres a year or more ago that the guns of Fort Monroe do not properly command the eastern channel, which leads up the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore and Washington, and there is nothing to prevent a hostile fleet from gaining entrance to the capes. By keeping close to the eastern channel a fleet could keep out of the range of the guns at the fort, and it is the purpose of Congressman Maynard to show that the only solution to the matter of safeguarding the national capital by water is that a fort be erected at Cape Henry, which commands the entrance to the capes.

The land at Cape Henry was surveyed some years back, and it was found to be good ground whereon to erect the fortifications and place the disappearing guns that could play havoc with any foreign fleet that would attempt to force the passage.

CHANGES PROPOSED.

Students Are Considering Revision of Honor System.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., May 12.—The chief topic before the final university hour of the year, held in Cabell Hall, at the University of Virginia, was the report by President Taylor, of the law department, of changes which have been outlined in the honor system of the university. Two or three material departures are suggested by the revision committee, and it was thought best not to adopt the report as made until it had been printed and thoroughly circulated among the student body. Then another meeting will be called and a vote taken.

The greatest change suggested by the committee is that the trial before alumni judges be abolished, and that the students themselves be allowed to fully handle an accused student's case. The report of the committee elicited much discussion, and resulted in valuable motions and amendments, that of Professor Hodge, that final action be deferred until another meeting, prevailing.

Henry L. Johnston made a plea for a better final celebration. After telling the students that the university has been arranged for this year, he urged them to remain and participate in them.

President Alderman closed the hour in a brief talk, in which he called attention to the good work of the university this year, and again urged that alumni keep in closer touch with the university. In summing up the year's work he said that this had been the most successful year in the university's history.

NEW ENTERPRISE.
Cotton Mill May Be Started at Martinsville.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
MARTINSVILLE, VA., May 12.—Capitalists and promoters of a cotton mill in North Carolina have been in Martinsville this week, with a view to establishing a \$300,000 cotton mill here, one-sixth of the stock to be taken by local people, the rest by the promoters of the enterprise. About two-thirds of the local stock has been subscribed, and those back of the enterprise feel that its success is now assured. The Reynolds factory, on Franklin Street, will be utilized for the new plant, which will employ about 300 hands. An option has been taken from the town of 500 shares of stock at \$100 each, and it is proposed to have the mill in operation on or before January 1.

Bills for Annapolis.
NORFOLK, VA., May 12.—The monitor Ozark, following a general overhaul at the Norfolk Navy Yard, sailed for Annapolis, where she will be used by the midshipmen on the summer practice cruises.

FIRE THREATENS BUSINESS BLOCKS

Big Blaze in Alexandria Causes Loss of \$100,000 to Lumber Plants.

WASHINGTON SENDS ENGINES
Citizens Help to Fight Flames, and Bucket Brigades Do Good Work.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ALEXANDRIA, VA., May 12.—Until the Washington department came over and checked the flames, a spectacular fire that began at 10 o'clock this morning threatened to wipe out the entire business section of the city on the river front. The loss will be as follows:

Smoot & Company, entire stock of lumber in yards and plant total loss of \$100,000, partially covered by insurance.

H. K. Field & Company, lumber dealers, loss between \$5,000 and \$8,000, covered by insurance.

Plant of Corby Bakery scorched, damaged to \$300, loss covered by insurance.

A number of other buildings in the vicinity were slightly damaged.

The fire originated in the planing mill of Smoot & Company. Sparks from the engine ignited a large quantity of inflammable material. In less than half an hour afterwards the entire mill was a roaring furnace. Fanned by winds from all points of the compass, the flames spread to the big lumber yards on the north and south side, and to get to the south side leaped across Cameron Street and threatened to wipe out the planing mill of Henry K. Field & Company.

When the alarm was turned in the fire department, consisting of two engines and a hook and ladder, responded. Shortly afterward a third, or reserve, engine was pressed into service.

The blaze continued to gain headway despite the efforts of the firemen, who were by this time being assisted by hundreds of volunteers, including people of all classes, who were working heroically.

Help From Washington.

At 11 o'clock the Washington Fire Department was called upon for assistance, as the whole business section of the river front, including such places as Charles King & Son, Incorporated, were threatened. At 11:40 o'clock two engines from Washington and two combination truck wagons, in charge of Chief Sullivan, arrived on a freight car. An hour afterward the fire was under control, although it is still burning at a late hour to-night and several streams are being played on the burning embers.

The only thing that saved the big Field mill from total destruction was the engine known as 1110, North Lee Street, occupied by Walter Langley and Ulysses G. Robert, which made a veritable fire wall.

Practically all the wholesale houses along the path of the flames kept employees on hand with buckets, and a steady stream was poured on the roofs of the buildings near-by, which were being covered with burning embers.

WILL INVESTIGATE.

Special Committee Looking After Fish Conditions.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., May 12.—The Board of Trade's special committee on proposed legislation to prevent the extermination of edible fish in the waters of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, will leave here Sunday evening next on the quickest Commodore Maury, of the Virginia oyster navy, for a personal investigation of the fish conditions in the Chesapeake. They will be the guests of President McDonald Lee, of the State Fisheries Commission. The committee is expected to return Tuesday afternoon.

To make arrangements for the proposed trip the committee will meet in the offices of the Board of Trade to-morrow at 10 A. M. The committee is composed of George H. Dawes, chairman; A. B. Seidner, Leo Judson, Joseph G. Fivesash, Sr., George Pilcher, John F. Lawler and T. H. Synon.

Bank Reorganized.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
CULPEPER, VA., May 12.—At the recent reorganization of the Culpeper National Bank, the capital stock was increased to \$50,000.

The following officers were elected: President, Charles Forbes; Vice-President, S. Russell Smith, resigned; S. B. Lillard, vice-president; W. W. Cheif, president; W. W. Cheif, assistant cashier; Directors—Charles Forbes, S. B. Lillard, G. B. W. Nalle, James H. Fletcher, E. S. Perry, W. W. Cheif, Raleigh T. Green, John W. Yowell, C. T. Gunn, T. E. Grimstey, John B. Miller, T. C. Smith.

Little Attention to Politics.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., May 12.—Politics has again simmered down in Norfolk, even the anti-saloon forces taking a rest for the present. Even the municipal primary is receiving little attention as yet. So far it does not look as if there will be much real and full participation in the good government faction. A number of candidates are announcing for the various offices, but so far factional lines seem to cut little figure in it.

Explosion Takes Place in Submarine at Norfolk.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., May 12.—An explosion, the cause unknown officially, damaged the engine-room of the submarine torpedo boat Cuttlefish this morning. The accident occurred shortly after the boat was taken from the drydock, where she had been undergoing repairs. Unofficially, it is stated that it was the explosion of a leaky gasoline tank, or crossed wires igniting powder. Officials refuse to make a statement further than that a board of inquiry has been appointed and will make its official report to the commandant, thence to be transferred to the department at Washington. Fortunately, no one was in the engine-room at the time. The damage is said not to be serious.

ASSOCIATION FORMED.

Senator Lasker Speaks in Interest of Good Roads.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BEDFORD CITY, VA., May 13.—State Senator Charles T. Lasker, president of the Virginia Good Roads Association, made a fine address to-day in the courthouse in the interest of road improvement. The appointment for the speaking had not been sufficiently advanced, and the attendance was small. Mr. Lasker advised that each legislative district issue bonds to the amount of \$25,000 for thirty years, the interest on which could be used for road improvement. At the conclusion of the address, a Good Roads Association for the county was organized. Dr. S. H. Price was elected president; J. D. Keeler secretary, and W. P. Moore, treasurer.

DAMAGE CASE ON TRIAL.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
SUFFOLK, VA., May 13.—The \$10,000 damage suit of Willie Beaton against the Norfolk and Western

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DANVILLE GIVEN NEXT CONVENTION

Odd-Fellows Conclude Bristol Meeting With Installation of Officers.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BRISTOL, VA., May 12.—The Virginia Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows concluded its annual convention here at 7 o'clock this evening, following the installation of officers. Most of the day was taken up in hearing and considering the reports of officers and committees. Grand Secretary Davis reported a membership of 20,080 in Virginia, a gain of about 1,000 over last year. The order raised \$29,330 in the State during the year ending the first day of the present month.

Danville was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting, which will convene on the second Tuesday in May, 1910. Lynchburg and Portsmouth were also candidates for the meeting, but the contest was between Danville and Lynchburg.

The Rebekah Assembly elected the following officers to-day: Mrs. Mina Coultis, of Clifton Forge, past president; Mrs. M. Emma Hamrick, Stanleyville, president; Mrs. Ellen M. Seaborn, of Portsmouth, vice-president; Mrs. O. L. Bunch, of Lynchburg, secretary; Mrs. Annie McCoy, of Norfolk, treasurer.

The Bristol canton to-night conferred the degree of chivalry upon Mrs. Coultis, retiring president of the Rebekahs.

EAGLES' MEETING.

Fourth Annual Convention Being Held in Roanoke.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ROANOKE, VA., May 12.—The fourth annual meeting of the Virginia State Aerie of Eagles convened here to-day with President Braxton, of Staunton, presiding, and all the State officers present with the exception of a Richmond delegate.

Mayor Joel H. Cutchin welcomed the visitors on behalf of the city, and Commonwealth's Attorney Everett Perkins, on behalf of the local aerie, to which President Braxton responded.

The reports of the committee on credentials showed eighty-six delegates in attendance.

A committee was appointed and resolutions were offered and referred for the establishment of an orphanage, appointing a State representative to visit aeries and giving more power to State aeries.

The visitors attended the baseball game in the afternoon and at night attended a minstrel show given by the local lodge.

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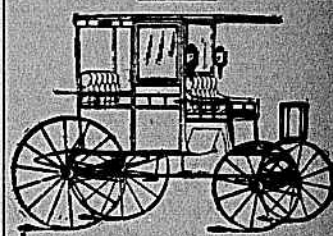
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Railroad was begun. Beaton, a young white man of Isle of Wight county, claims that he boarded a passenger train without having time to buy a ticket and was thrown off, losing a leg and sustaining other injuries.

Rebuilding Bordentown.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BOYDTON, VA., May 12.—Two new brick storehouses will soon be built in the burned district of the town. H. L. Turpin has his storehouse, eighty feet long by twenty-six feet wide, and two stories high under construction, and it is expected that the brick work will be completed within thirty days. A. T. Shnellings has a great deal of his material ready for his new drug store and will begin work in a short time. A. Fine has bought his old stand and intends to erect a large brick store where the old wooden one stood.

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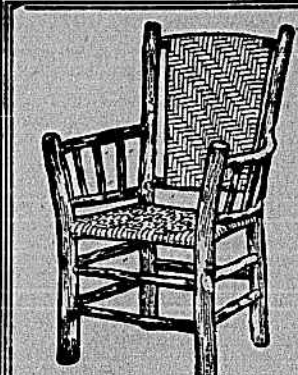
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